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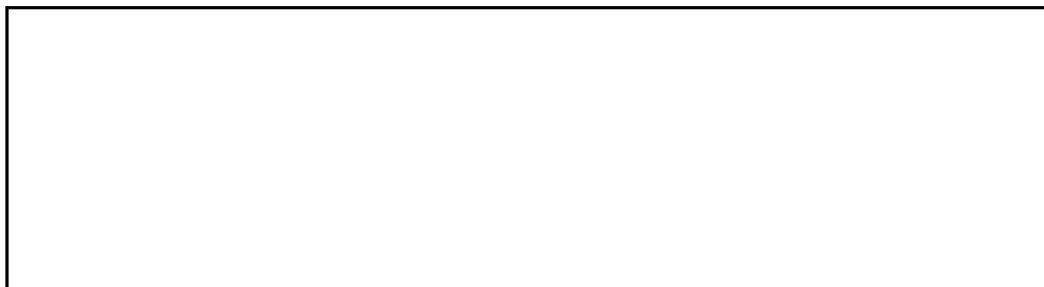
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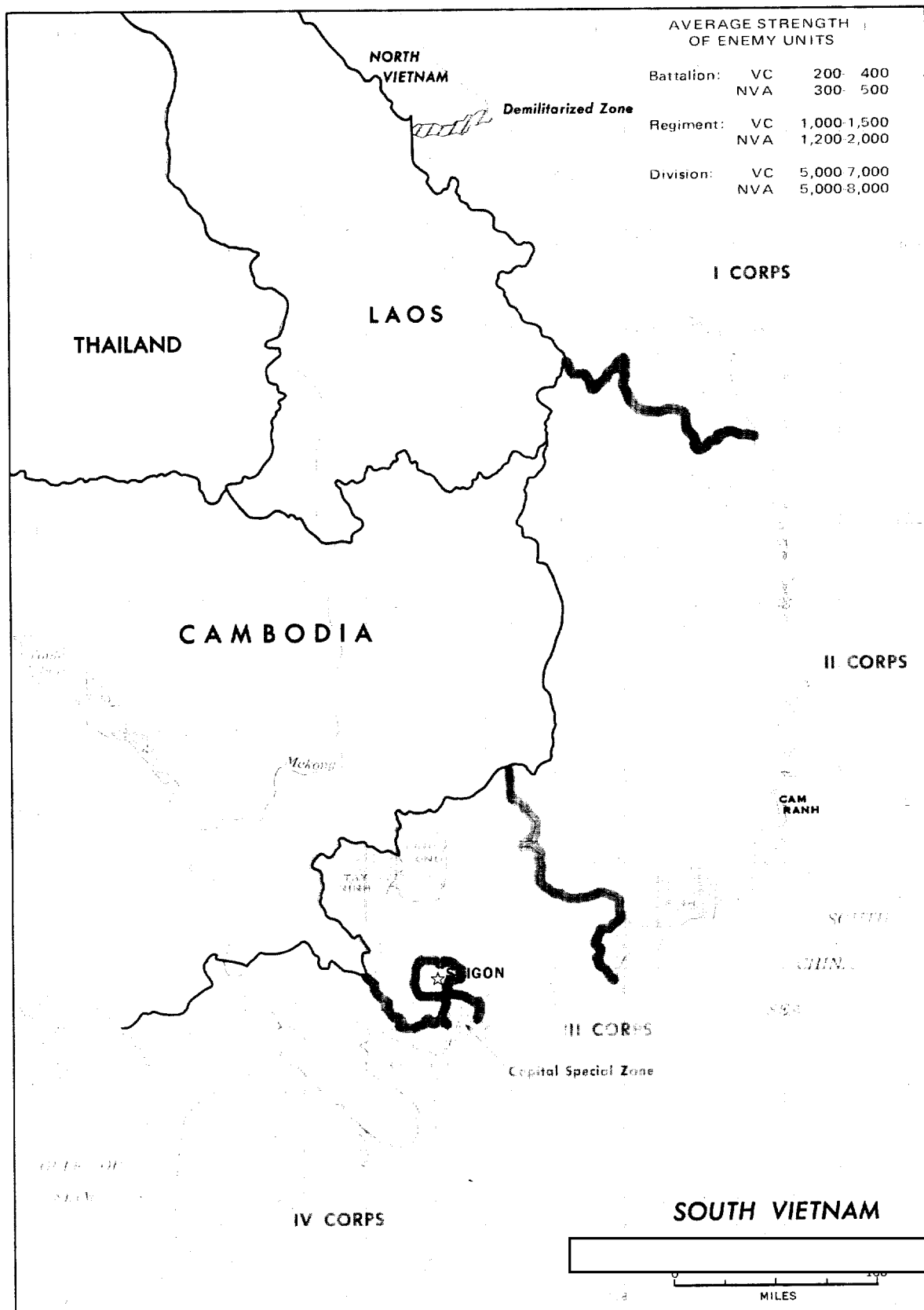
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[South Vietnam: Communist forces carried out another "high point" last night, shelling over 90 allied bases throughout South Vietnam.

About half of the shellings inflicted light casualties or damage. A few rockets were launched against targets on the outskirts of Saigon, Hue, and Da Nang without serious effect.

The "high point" was preceded by weekend attacks near the Demilitarized Zone against US positions in Tay Ninh Province and a battalion-sized attack against South Vietnamese Army troops in coastal Binh Thuan Province. Together with the shellings these actions could indicate the start of the enemy's much touted "autumn offensive" expected to occur around two major Communist holidays in mid-August and early September. Communist units are in position to launch followup ground attacks in scattered areas of the country particularly around the northern III Corps province of Binh Long.

There appears to be no major ground threat to the country's three major cities but they could come under terrorist harassment. There are numerous indications that the Communists intend to emphasize guerrilla and sapper operations in their coming drive.

* * * *

Political ferment among Vietnamese exiles in Paris has increased since the Viet Cong announced their Provisional Revolutionary Government and called for a provisional coalition. Although only a few opportunist exiles have endorsed the Viet Cong proposals, others have been talking about forming a broad exile alliance to include a pro-Communist group. These people also met recently with representatives of Senator Tran Van Don, who has become an increasingly active critic in Saigon of the Thieu regime.

Although most of the exiles reportedly remain wary of too close involvement with the Communists, their activities are playing into Communist hands.

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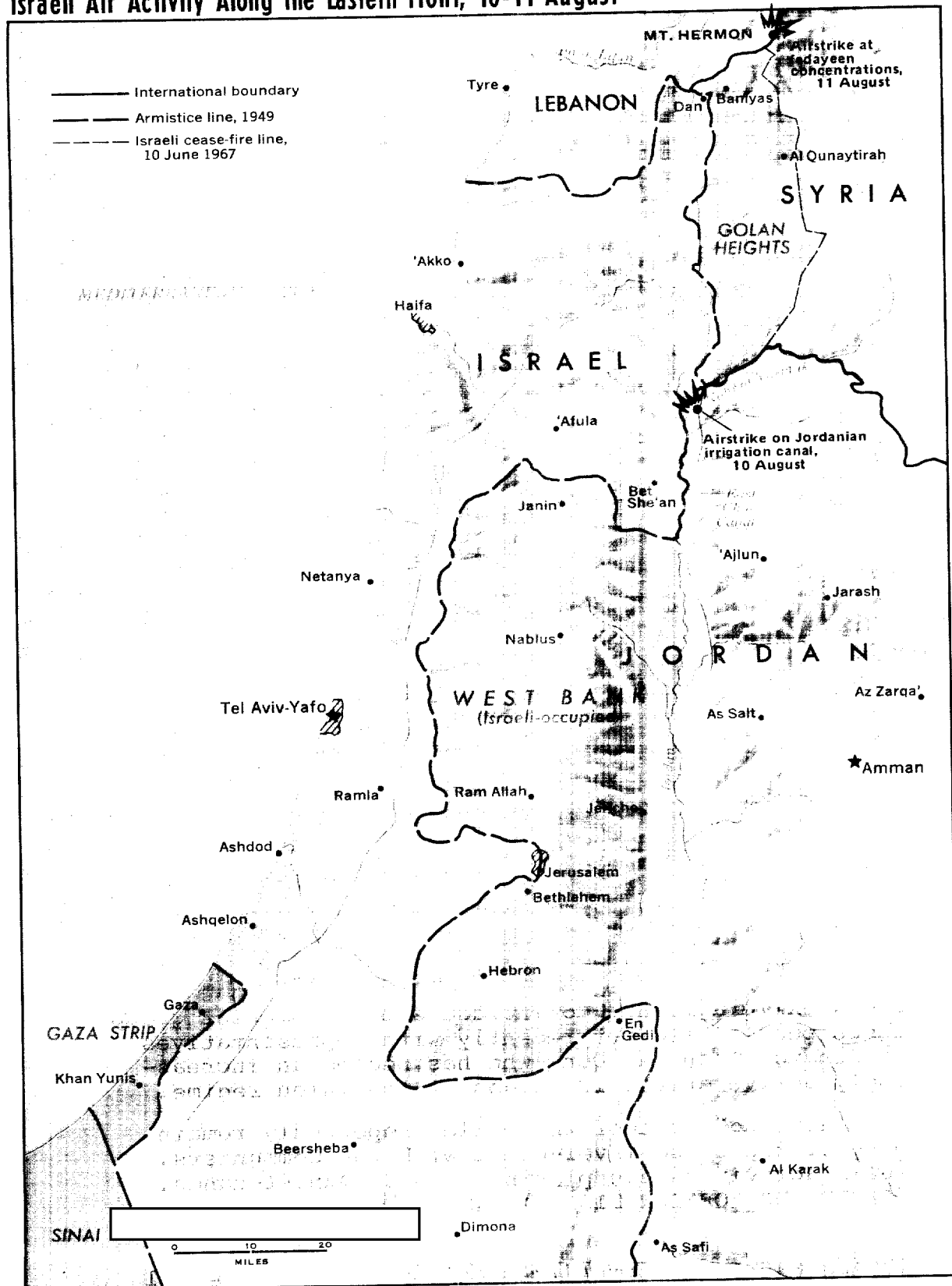
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Israeli Air Activity Along the Eastern Front, 10-11 August



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Israel-Jordan: Israel is maintaining a tough position regarding incidents along the cease-fire lines.

Sunday's airstrike which damaged the East Ghor Canal was in retaliation for "stepped-up Jordanian and Arab commando aggression" in the northern Jordan Valley, according to an Israeli spokesman. An Israeli airstrike yesterday at fedayeen concentrations in southeastern Lebanon on the slopes of the Mount Hermon range was in response to 21 fedayeen attacks originating from that area during the past month, according to the Israelis. This latest Israeli action will complicate the Lebanese Government's efforts to restrict fedayeen activities.

A number of Jordanians, who arrived yesterday morning to inspect damage to the East Ghor Canal, left after the Israelis fired "a few rifle shots." Without water for irrigation, Jordan's banana groves and citrus orchards will be irreparably damaged in two weeks time.

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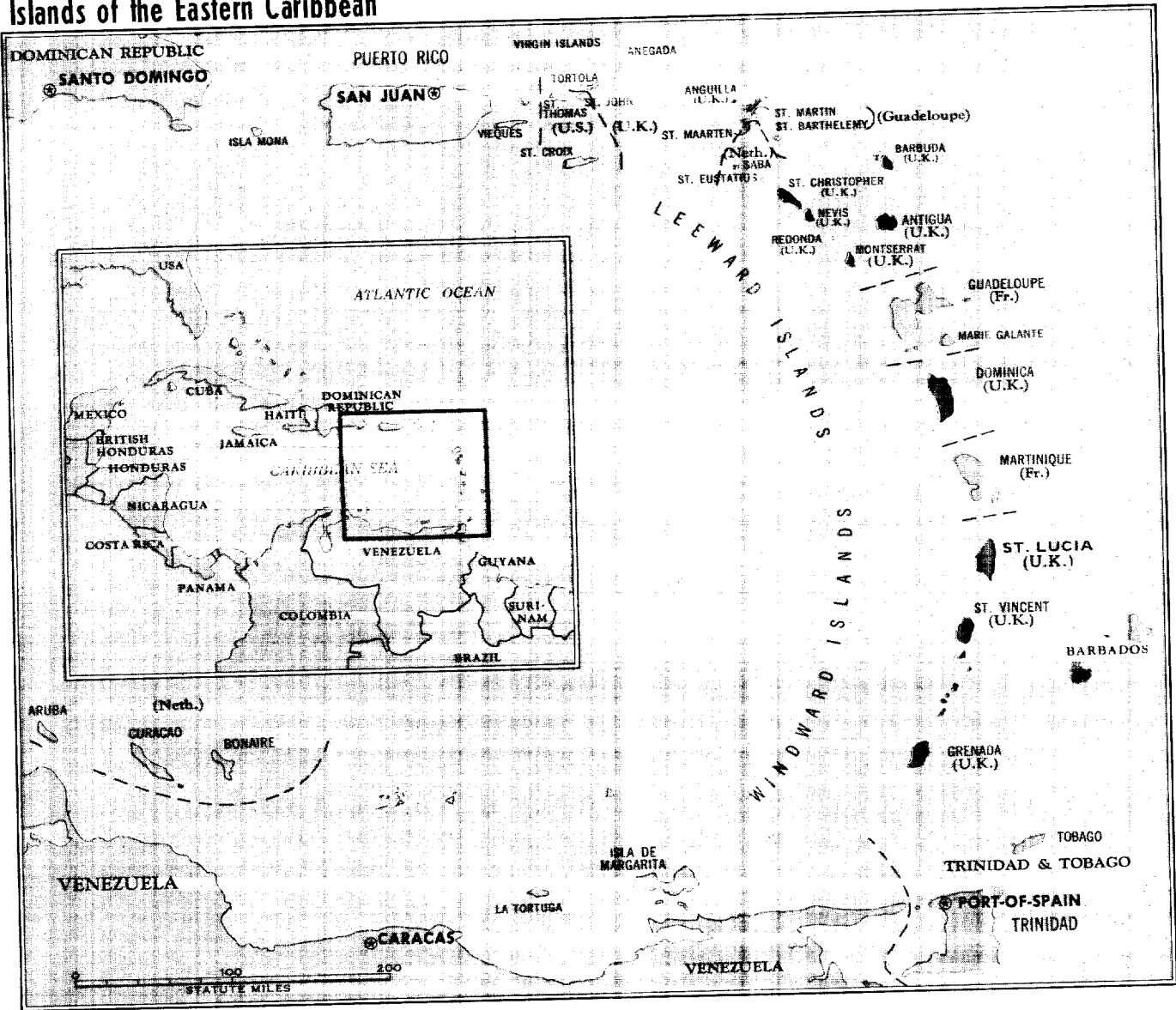
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Islands of the Eastern Caribbean



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Caribbean: Leaders of the small eastern Caribbean states disagree on what the future political status of the states should be.

Premier Compton of St. Lucia is seeking support for the formation of a new federation comprising the several West Indies states that are "associated" with Britain. He is trying to convene a meeting of Caribbean leaders this month to discuss the proposal. Compton's proposal conflicts with that of Prime Minister Williams of Trinidad and Tobago who wants to create a political grouping of several states in association with Trinidad and Tobago. Williams seems to believe he could use such a grouping to become a stronger regional leader.

Since the collapse of the West Indies Federation in 1962, governments of the English-speaking Caribbean have given priority to economic cooperation through such instruments as the Caribbean Free Trade Area. Recently, however, new attention has been directed to developing a political organization that will lessen dependence on the UK but still be viable. Local conflicts, like the breakup last year of the St. Kitts - Nevis - Anguilla Associated State, make the prospects uncertain.

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NOTES

Cyprus: Rumors that the Turkish Cypriots will declare a separate government on 16 August have prompted Athens to seek consultations with President Makarios. If Makarios professes to take the rumors seriously, Athens intends to raise the matter with Ankara. Greek officials doubt Ankara would support such a move, but they cannot entirely rule out the possibility that extremist factions in the Turkish-Cypriot community might try it. [REDACTED]

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Southern Yemen: The government is in a state of near paralysis. Top civil servants are complaining that it is virtually impossible to obtain decisions from government ministers. Most of the supporters of the ruling clique of the National Liberation Front party are reportedly disillusioned by the regime's failure to provide either "bread or circuses." US Embassy officials in Aden have the impression that a determined push from almost any direction could bring about another major change of government, such as that which occurred in June. [REDACTED]

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